

Executive Recruitment Announcement

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is actively recruiting for the position of Assistant Chief Counsel, one of its most critical Senior Executive Service positions. We are seeking a dynamic attorney with demonstrated experience in railroad safety and proven executive leadership skills. The incumbent of this position serves as the primary expert in legal matters affecting the Federal railroad safety program and represents the FRA in contacts with members of Congress, high-level officials from other Federal and State Government agencies, and executive officers and legal counsel of railroads and railroad labor organizations. The incumbent is responsible for reviewing and providing legal advice on a wide range of documents and Congressional reports on rail safety and security matters for the Secretary of Transportation, the FRA Administrator and other senior officials of the Department.

As a senior executive in the FRA, the person who occupies this position serves as FRA's civil prosecutor, annually handling thousands of recommended assessments. He or she oversees the review of a wide variety of violation reports recommended by FRA's field safety inspectors and their state counterparts for the imposition of civil penalties on railroads and shippers, and determines whether prosecution should be initiated or claims settled in matters involving claims pursuant to the Federal Claims Collection Act and the Federal railroad safety statutes. The incumbent has authority to disqualify individuals from safety-sensitive service, where their violations of safety laws demonstrate their unfitness, including signing orders of disqualification. In partnership with the FRA Office of Safety, recommends the proposal of rail safety legislation to Congress, and oversees the drafting of the Administration's rail safety bills. Further, the incumbent supervises all aspects of staff attorneys' participation in litigation and serves as the legal representative of DOT on cases concerning railroad safety that are prosecuted or defended in court by the agency and in related administrative hearings. The incumbent is responsible for ensuring the highest level of employee morale and productivity, and will ensure equal employment opportunity and workforce diversity goals and objectives are met. This individual will have a direct impact on FRA's ability to meet its strategic goals and the strategic goals of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

We are strongly encouraging those who meet our qualifications to consider applying for this position. We urge you to share information about this vacancy with anyone you think would be a good candidate. For your convenience, a copy of the vacancy announcement may be found on the FRA's website www.fra.dot.gov or at www.usajobs.opm.gov.